

CHILDREN DESERVE QUALITY EDUCATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our education system needs reform for America's children.

For far too long, we have watched as government red tape and regulations have robbed our youth from learning the skills necessary to succeed. Children deserve better than ineffective, status quo education practices. We must empower those who know what's best for our children rather than continue the tradition of Big Government mandates.

House Republicans, led by Education Chairman JOHN KLINE, have a plan to reform our education system with commonsense solutions. By removing the power of government bureaucracy and by empowering locally elected school boards, our teachers, parents, and local leaders, we will have the opportunity to develop a working educational plan to help our children succeed.

As the House votes on the Student Success Act today, it is my hope that Members from both sides of the aisle will join together and support this legislation for the sake of our children's future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, climate change is real. The future damage that will be done if we fail to address it is foreseeable and predictable.

We are living through an extended period of radical weather. The weather systems of 2012 produced the secondmost damaging infliction to the economy in the history of our country—\$115 billion—much of it from Hurricane Sandy, much of it from an extended drought. Sea levels are rising. This is measurable. This is not debatable. It is fact.

What we are doing in this Congress is arguing about energy policy, but we are having that argument in the context of denying that the failure to address climate change won't have serious economic and social implications. Sea levels are rising. The damage to our Treasury is rising. The suffering of our people is real. So it is absolutely essential that the House of Representatives acknowledge the reality of climate change and include that in its debate on energy policy.

LANCASTER HEROES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today, I come to the floor to recognize two young heroes from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Last week, a young 5-year-old girl, Jocelyn Rojas, was abducted from her front yard by a stranger, an older man, who turned out to be a previously convicted sex offender.

The police and folks across the neighborhood quickly organized a search. Tamar Boggs and Chris Garcia set out on their bikes with other friends, and when the boys spotted a suspicious car wandering through their development, they checked it out and saw the young girl inside. They relentlessly chased the driver on their bikes for 15 furious minutes. In recognizing that the boys wouldn't give up, the man let Jocelyn out of the car and drove away. She immediately ran to the boys, asking for her mother, and they safely took her back home.

While they may not think of themselves as heroes, they certainly are. Thanks to Tamar and Chris, Jocelyn is home, and the suspect is now in custody.

PROPHETSTOWN FIRE

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the terrible fire earlier this week that destroyed much of Prophetstown, Illinois—a small town in Whiteside County, Illinois, that I have the honor of representing.

The blaze destroyed nearly all of downtown and disrupted the lives of so many people living and working in this northwestern Illinois town full of caring people. Several families of this town of more than 2,000 people lost all of their possessions, not to mention their livelihoods.

Angie Stegmiller lost everything she owned in the fire, including precious knickknacks that were handed down from her grandparents. Her cats are still missing. As Angie said, "It's not the stuff. It's the memories behind the stuff." She is still holding out hope that her cats will return.

The community's response to the fire should serve as an inspiration to all. Residents are coming together to help one another through this. The Methodist church has received so many food donations that its freezers are overfilled. Neighbors are helping neighbors clean up the rubble and are turning over spare bedrooms and bathrooms to those who are temporarily homeless. Residents have begun the slogan "Prophetstown Strong" to refer to the resiliency of this community.

I have no doubt that, due to the spirit and resolve of the citizens of Prophetstown, this town will recover and be stronger.

FOR HARDWORKING AMERICANS

(Mr. BENTIVOLIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, we've had a few acrimonious weeks over the last month, but, today, I want to talk about something that crosses the partisan divide, something that makes this country go. Whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, it's undeniable that the ethic of hard work is the glue that binds our Nation together, and when we go back and forth, yelling at each other, we in Congress tend to forget that.

Our task is to promote legislation that leads our country into the 21st century.

As Congress prepares to take up some major issues, we must keep in mind that the people of this Nation want solutions, solutions that empower them to achieve their American Dream. We must remember what keeps this country together. We must strive valiantly and dare greatly, and we must develop solutions that promote hard work and an honest wage.

LET'S GET AMERICA BACK TO WORK

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, since taking control of the House of Representatives, House Republicans have held 39 separate votes that would undermine all or part of the Affordable Care Act. What is most unfortunate is that, in those 2½ years, the House Republican leadership has refused to work across the aisle with Democrats to put people back to work and pass a comprehensive jobs bill, a bill that would help middle class families.

It's time for the House Republican leadership to put away political slogans and partisan gamesmanship and to get serious about governing.

Let's focus on rebuilding the crumbling infrastructure of our country so we can move goods, services, and information to compete in a 21st century economy. Let's harness American innovation and support the resurgence of American manufacturing by taking up the Make It In America agenda of the Democratic Caucus. Let's also protect young people and families from rising interest rates on student loans.

Mr. Speaker, let's stop wasting time, and let's get America back to work.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF TOM PRICE

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished leader who has earned the respect of everyone who knows him, Mr. Tom